



Ahavath Israel Congregation
1130 Lower Ferry Road
Ewing, NJ 08618

Ahavath Updates

2005-2006—ISSUE 1

JULY—AUGUST 2005

Officers for 2005-2006 Installed



The new officers for Ahavath Israel Congregation were recently installed at a special Friday night Shabbat service. Installed were the following officers for 2005-2006: President, Leonard Epstein; Vice President, Mary Lou Byer; Treasurer, Frances Laskey; Recording Secretary, Richard Byer; and Financial Secretary, Phyllis Stern. A Friday evening Shabbat service followed the installation ceremony, with a special Kiddush ending the evening.

Inside this issue:

A Message from Your Outgoing President	2
A Message from Your Incoming President	2
High Holiday Plans Underway	2
End-of-Summer Picnic	2
Donations	3
Get Well Wishes, Special Thanks, Condolences	3
Schedule of Services	3
New Ahavath Website!	4
Mark Your Calendar	4

Reminders:

- You are always needed and welcome for Services to help make a Minyan. Bring a friend.
- BINGO needs your help. Call to volunteer.
- End-of-Summer Picnic—Sunday, Aug. 28 (12-2)
- Donations needed for the Kosher Food Pantry. Drop off in lobby.
- Your Marrazzo's Receipts are still needed. Drop off in lobby or mail slot.



Ahavath Celebrates 40th Year in Ewing Township

On Sunday, June 5 members and friends joined to celebrate Ahavath Israel's first forty years at its present location in Ewing Township. Those in attendance enjoyed a dinner buffet, catered by The Kosher Experience through the Lawrenceville ShopRite, consisting of roast chicken,

chicken soup, tossed salad, noodle kugel, tzimmes, green beans almondine, challah rolls, and fruit. A beautiful cake congratulating the congregation on its fortieth year in the township was enjoyed for dessert.

Honored and receiving plaques for their "dedication and outstanding contributions



to Ahavath Israel Congregation" were Frances Laskey, Phyllis Stern, Richard Byer, Leonard Epstein, Harold Goldmann, Sy Laskey, and Robert Pearson. Outgoing President Mary Lou Byer was also honored with a plaque commemorating her "dedication and service to Ahavath Israel Congregation as its President" for the past five years.

Summer Activities at Ahavath

Fourth of July

This year Ahavath Israel participated in Ewing Township's Fourth of July Parade. This was a wonderful means of showing the township that we are here! This year's theme was "A Salute to the Sunshine Foundation." Cars

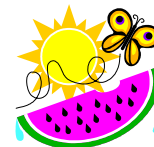
provided by the Epsteins and the Byers were decorated in red, white, and blue with signs saying "Ahavath Salutes the Sunshine Foundation" and "Ahavath Israel—40 Years in Ewing!" Bob Pearson came on his decorated bike and rode the

(Continued on page 4)



L to R: Mary Lou Byer, Rick Byer, Bob Pearson, Len Epstein, and Frances Laskey wait for the parade to start in front of Len's decorated car.

A Message from Your Outgoing President



End-of-Summer Picnic Planned

Ahavath Israel's Annual End-of-Summer Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 28 from 12 Noon to 2 PM at the synagogue. The menu will include hot dogs, hamburgers, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, corn, and watermelon. The price is \$10 per adult. Reservations are required by August 22.



mented, including adult education led by a local Rabbi. Looking forward to meeting and working with all of you. Have a great summer and feel free to drop in on the shul and see the improvements in progress. We have services every Shabbat morning starting at 9:00am and I look forward to seeing you support your shul.

B'shalom, Len Epstein

Dear Friends,

The past five years that I have served as your president have been a very special time for me. Both Rick and I have worked extremely hard to keep Ahavath moving forward and have succeeded in letting people outside of the shul know that we are here and planning to stay. The duties of the presidency turned out to be far more encompassing than I had originally thought. Everything from publishing the newsletter and flyers to taking out the garbage seemed to fall into the realm of the position. I will still continue to be involved, now with the

title of Vice President, and hope to focus my energy on our programming and education. I have appreciated the cooperation and support which I received from the other members of the Board of Trustees. My Executive Board Officers during the past five years, Frances Laskey, Phyllis Stern, Eleanor Kreeley, and my husband, Rick Byer, have all given a tremendous amount of effort in keeping Ahavath going, as have the other members of the Board, Sy Laskey, Bob Pearson, Herb Young, and Joel Orland. An extra note of appreciation goes to Rick for serving as a

wonderful advisor and source of encouragement.

I would also like to thank Len Epstein, Harold Goldmann, and Rick Byer for stepping up and taking over the leading of services during the past year. A "Yasher Koach" is definitely in order!

I thank all of our members for their support. I am confident that our new officers will continue with Ahavath's renewal and regrowth. My best wishes for success.

Sincerely,
Mary Lou Byer
(2000-2005)

A Message from Your Incoming President

From the President's Desk

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you the congregation for electing me president of your shul, Ahavath Israel. I look forward to working with Mary Lou, Fran, Phyllis and Rick. We have already met and are working very hard. As you know, first you sow, then you reap. This year we will planting many seeds, hopefully, we will harvest big dividends in the coming

years in rising membership, activities, attendance and once again making Ahavath Israel the center of Jewish community life for the greater Ewing area. Rabbi Aronson will be leading High Holiday services, and I am eager to join together with all our members in October. We, your Board, are all working together behind the scenes, making small changes, and having frank discussions about future activities. I am very open to suggestions and welcome

comments from members. Please call me at home (609) 466-1663, my cell: (609) 204-0345, or email: Len@compnet.org with your ideas. We will have our web site up and running this summer. The Internet is a great way to attract new members and post information in an easy to disperse fashion at minimal cost. I have already contacted the Jewish Federation of Princeton-Mercer-Bucks and am seeking support for future programs that can be imple-



High Holiday Plans Underway



With the High Holidays fast approaching, Ahavath Israel's Ritual Committee has been hard at work planning for this very special time of year. Rabbi Daniel Aronson will once again be leading our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. This year, Rabbi Aronson, who has also

done interim work as a Cantor, will pick up more of the cantorial duties, with Len Epstein sharing some of the other Bimah responsibilities. Participation by more of our members will also be encouraged.

This year's High Holiday services will also see the addition of a new Mahzor. Appro-

priately named The New Mahzor, it includes more modern English, transliterations, and readings to inspire us during the holiday season. Donations are being sought to pay for this much-needed update to our High Holiday services. (See the enclosed flyer for details.)

Another much-needed update for which we are still seek-

ing a donor or donors, is the paroches or curtains for the ark. These are changed to white for the High Holidays and are in need of being replaced. Please call the office as soon as possible if you wish to memorialize a loved one by beautifying our ark for the High Holidays.

Special Thanks to...

...Mary Lou and Rick Byer for their hard work in making the 40th Year Celebration Dinner a success.

...Mary Lou Byer for soliciting ads and putting together the program book for the dinner.

...Millie Temkin and Sherry & Len Epstein for sponsoring special Kiddushes.

...Bob Pearson for rebuilding the Sukkah (work in progress).

...everyone who has helped to secure materials for Bob's re-



construction project.

...Sy Laskey and Bob Pearson and his sons for their work on getting the Air Conditioners and Bingo Machine back in working order.

Congratulations to...

...Len Epstein, Mary Lou Byer, Fran Laskey, Phyllis Stern, and Rick Byer for their election to serve as the Executive Board Officers for the coming year.

...The Pearson and Orland families on recent graduations.

Get Well Wishes to...

- Miriam Goldberg
- Shirley Rosenberg
- Rose Goldberg
- Anne Palatt
- Charles "Chuck" Stern
- Sherry Epstein
- Seymour Blaustein

A very special "Thank You" to an anonymous donor for the contribution of \$500 to the shul.



Condolences...

Our Condolences to the family of Milt and Ruth Seifert on the loss of their daughter Dale.

Donations

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of Dale Seifert,

From:

- Millie Temkin
- Leonard Epstein
- Phyllis Stern
- Frances & Sy Laskey

In Memory of Eleanor Kreeley, from Alexander & Jean Clark

In Memory of Ruth's Mother, Sadie Davids, from Seymour & Ruth Blaustein

In Memory of Seymour's Father, Emil Blaustein, from Seymour & Ruth Blaustein

In Memory of Aunt Shirley, from Seymour & Ruth Blaustein

In Memory of Hannah Sackin, from Jack & Miriam Goldberg

In Memory of Herman Esko, from Helen & Irven Esko

In Memory of Florence Stern, from Seymore & Frances Laskey



Yahrzeit Donations:

In Memory of her Father-In-Law, Mother, and Husband Sam from Millie Temkin

HONORS

In Honor of the Board and her Birthday, from Millie Temkin

In Honor of Len Epstein's Birthday, from:

- Cyla Schall
- Laurence S. Epstein
- Shirley & Irv Kramer
- Sherry Epstein
- Frances & Sy Laskey
- Millie Temkin
- Frances & Sam Friedman

GET WELL WISHES

From Seymour & Ruth Blaustein, for prayers said for Seymour during his recent illness.

From Marcia A. Stern to her sister, Blanch Wiener

Remember, there are many ways to memorialize or honor your loved ones. Seat Plaques, Leaves for the Tree of Life, Prayer Books, and Memorial Plaques are but a few examples. Call and we will gladly help with suggestions.

Honors and Memorials

Book Adoption: Sim Shalom (Weekly-Saturday Shabbat Prayer Book) @ \$18

Book Adoption: The New Mahzor (High Holidays) @ \$18

Tree of Life: @ \$50/leaf

Seat Plaque: @ \$150

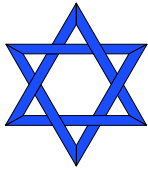
Yahrzeit Plaque: @ \$300 (Call now for installation by Yom Kippur.)

High Holiday Tickets

Now Available

Please call the office now to reserve High Holiday tickets for family members or friends. (Details in the next newsletter.)





AHAVATH ISRAEL
CONGREGATION
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Tradition - Family - Friends

Executive Board Officers

President
Len Epstein

Vice President
Mary Lou Byer

Treasurer
Frances Laskey

Financial Secretary
Phyllis Stern

Recording Secretary
Richard Byer

Board of Trustees

Bingo Committee
Phyllis Stern

Blood Bank
Sy Laskey

Buildings and Grounds
Robert Pearson

Cemetery Committee
Joel Orland

Education
Mary Lou Byer

Honors and Memorials
Herbert Young

Ritual Committee
Richard Byer

Additional positions on the Board are available and are currently shared by the Executive Board Officers. If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact Len Epstein, if you are interested.

Summer —Continued from p. 1

parade route along with the cars. Riding in cars were Len Epstein, Fran Laskey, Rick Byer, and Mary Lou Byer. Riding on the Sunshine Foundation float was Sy Laskey as Firey Freddie.

Shabbat Under the Stars

Fast becoming a summer tradition at Ahavath Israel in Ewing, the "Shabbat Under the Stars" service was held this year on Friday, July 15. The evening began with a

cookout, in the Meditation Garden off the main lobby. Dinner and services, which followed, scheduled to be held outdoors under the stars, were moved to the lobby, due to the extreme heat. Services were led by Rick Byer. This was an excellent opportunity to get in touch with nature and yet to appreciate the technology of air conditioning, when it is working.

End of Summer Picnic

Sunday, August 28—See flyer and article.



Bob Pearson and his bike get set for the Fourth of July Parade. "Firey Freddie" (Sy Laskey) walked with the Sunshine Foundation float.

This Sunshine Foundation billboard, complete with our own Sy Laskey as Firey Freddie, appeared throughout Mercer County during the past few months. It made two appearances on Olden Avenue in Ewing.



New Website Up and Running!

Check out our new Ahavath website:

<http://www.ahavathisrael.org>

A big "thank you" to Len Epstein for getting us back on the internet.

Kosher Food Pantry Still in Need of Donations

In the last issue of the newsletter you were informed that the months of July and August were assigned to Ahavath Israel for being responsible for supplying food for the Kosher Food Pantry. Donations are still greatly needed! Our red shopping cart in the front corner of the lobby has been far from overflowing—often completely empty. If you are unable to donate nonperishable food items, please request donation coupons and make a monetary contribution. The food bank needs our help. All items marked as Kosher will be donated to the Kosher Food Bank. If any non-kosher items are donated they will go to the Ewing Food Pantry, so nothing will be wasted. Please help!

Upcoming Events...

Sunday, August—28—Annual End of Summer Picnic (12:00-2:00)

Pre-High Holidays Pasta Dinner—Date and Time to be announced.

Dinner/Lunch/Sundaes in the Sukkah—Date and Time to be announced.

Fall Mah-Jongg and Chinese Kosher Luncheon—Date and Time to be announced.

Also watch upcoming newsletters for information on adult education, speakers, and other programming.